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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission

In the Matter of)	Strice of Secretary
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 96-45
TRACFONE WIRELESS, INC.))	
Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier In the Commonwealth of Virginia))))	

PETITION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Counsel for TracFone Wireless, Inc.

July 21, 2004

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EXHIBITS

- 1. Declaration of TracFone President
- 2. Order from the Virginia State Corporation Commission Declining Jurisdiction
- 3. High-Cost Interstate Access and Interstate Common Line Support Certification Letter

SUMMARY

TracFone Wireless, Inc. ("TracFone") is seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act") throughout the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, including both non-rural telephone company service areas and rural telephone company service areas.

TracFone is a reseller of Commercial Mobile Radio Services ("CMRS") throughout Virginia. Through its resale agreements with five underlying carriers, TracFone has the ability to provide all services and functionalities supported by the universal service program, as detailed in Section 54.101(a) of the Commission's Rules, including Lifeline Service to qualifying customers, to any customer requesting this service within the designated service area.

Under Section 214(e)(6) of the Act, the Commission may, with respect to an area served by a rural telephone company, and shall, in all other cases, designate more than one common carrier as an ETC for a designated service area, so long as the carrier meets the requirements of Section 214(e)(6). TracFone meets the requirements for ETC designation pursuant to Section 214(e)(6). TracFone recognizes that Section 214(e)(1)(A) states that ETCs shall offer services, at least in part, over their own facilities. Due to the fact that TracFone provides service by reselling the services of its underlying vendors, it has requested that the Commission exercise its forbearance authority with respect to the facilities-based requirement. TracFone meets all the conditions to grant a petition for forbearance. Enforcement of the requirement that an ETC provide service using at least a portion of its own facilities is not necessary to ensure that TracFone's charges and practices are just and reasonable and are not unjustly or unreasonably discriminatory; is not necessary to protect consumers; and is consistent with the public interest. Unlike the situation that may exist when a carrier offers service by reselling the services of

incumbent local exchange carriers obtained at regulated "wholesale" rates in accordance with Sections 251(c)(4) and 252(d)(3) of the Act, the rates which TracFone is charged by its vendors are the product of market-driven arms-length negotiations. Thus, there is no universal service support built into those rates.

Finally, designation of TracFone as an ETC in rural telephone company service areas is supported by the public interest for various reasons. For example, consumers will benefit from the competitive choices that will be available, especially due to the fact that TracFone will provide valuable wireless service to rural communities. In addition, TracFone's service offerings provide unique advantages. Specifically, TracFone provides affordable wireless telecommunications service to consumers to whom wireless service is otherwise unavailable or impracticable. TracFone offers pay-as-you-go service and none of the incumbent providers or the non-incumbent ETCs serving the areas covered by TracFone in Virginia offer service to consumers under comparable conditions.

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PETITION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

TracFone Wireless, Inc. ("TracFone"), by its undersigned counsel and pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Communications Act"), hereby submits this Petition for Designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in the Commonwealth of Virginia. TracFone provides wireless telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. As demonstrated herein, and certified in Exhibit 1 to this Petition, TracFone meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as an ETC in the Commonwealth of Virginia. TracFone respectfully requests that the Commission promptly grant this Petition.

I. TracFone's Universal Service Offering

TracFone is a reseller of commercial mobile radio service ("CMRS") throughout the United States, including Virginia. TracFone provides service through a "virtual network" consisting of services obtained from more than thirty licensed operators of wireless

networks. TracFone has provided CMRS service throughout Virginia continuously for seven years. In Virginia, TracFone obtains service from the following underlying carriers: Alltel; Cingular Wireless; U.S. Cellular; Verizon Wireless; and Virginia Cellular. TracFone's arrangements with these providers enable it to offer services wherever any of those providers offer service in Virginia.

TracFone, through its resale agreements with the underlying carriers identified in the preceding paragraph, has the ability to provide all services and functionalities supported by the universal service program, as detailed in Section 54.101(a) of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)) throughout Virginia. Upon designation as an ETC, TracFone will make available to consumers a universal service offering with all of the functionalities and features currently provided by TracFone to existing customers. TracFone will provide service pursuant to the universal service program, including Lifeline Service to qualifying customers, to any customer requesting this service within the designated service area.

Indeed, even without classification as an ETC, TracFone currently operates in accordance with the spirit of universal service. Because TracFone utilizes the networks of more than thirty licensed CMRS providers, TracFone service is available virtually nationwide (including throughout Virginia). Moreover, TracFone service is available at nationally uniform rates. TracFone service is priced no higher in Staunton (Augusta County), Virginia than it is in Richmond. This is so despite the fact that TracFone's agreements with smaller, independent CMRS providers who serve rural areas, including, for example, Staunton, Virginia, require TracFone to incur substantially higher costs to serve those areas. In fact, in some markets, TracFone's cost per minute of service in rural areas is higher than the nationally uniform rate it charges its customers in those areas.

II. TracFone Meets the Requirements For Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Serve the Designated Areas in the State of Virginia.

Under Section 214(e)(6) of the Act (47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6)), the Commission, consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, may, with respect to an area served by a rural telephone company, and shall, in all other cases, designate more than one common carrier as an ETC for a designated service area, so long as the requesting carrier meets the requirements of Section 214(e)(6). As demonstrated below, and as set forth in the Declaration of F.J. Pollak, Exhibit 1, TracFone meets the requirements for ETC designation by the Commission pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) set forth in the Commission's Section 214(e)(6) Public Notice, as demonstrated in this Petition. In addition, TracFone complies with the standards established by the Commission for determining whether applications for ETC status to serve areas served by rural local exchange carriers would serve the public interest.² TracFone recognizes that Section 214(e)(1)(A) states that ETCs shall offer services, at least in part, over their own facilities. However, as described at Section II.B of this petition, TracFone is simultaneously requesting that the Commission exercise its forbearance authority with respect to that facilities-based service requirement. For the reasons set forth in its petition for forbearance, TracFone meets all of the conditions to grant of a petition for forbearance codified at Section 10 of the Act (47 U.S.C. § 160).

¹ <u>See</u> Procedures for FCC Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act, *Public Notice*, 12 FCC Rcd 22947 (1997) ("Section 214(e)(6) Public Notice").

² See <u>Virginia Cellular</u>, <u>LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Virginia</u>, FCC 03-338, released January 22, 2004 ("Virginia Cellular"); <u>Highland Cellular</u>, Inc. Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the <u>Commonwealth of Virginia</u>, FCC 04-37, released April 12, 2004 ("Highland Cellular").

A. The Virginia State Corporation Commission Does Not Regulate CMRS Service

A carrier seeking designation as an ETC must typically request such a designation from the applicable state regulatory commission. However, the Virginia State Corporation Commission (the "VSCC") does not regulate CMRS carriers such as TracFone for the purpose of making ETC determinations. An Order to this effect, dated April 9, 2004, has been issued by the VSCC, and is attached to this Petition as Exhibit 2.³ This Order meets the Commission's specific requirements for such documents, in that it specifies that CMRS carriers, such as TracFone, are not subject to the jurisdiction of the VSCC for the purpose of making Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designations. TracFone accordingly requests that the FCC designate TracFone as "a common carrier providing telephone exchange service and exchange access that is not subject to the jurisdiction of a state commission" pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6).

B. TracFone Will Provide Service Through Resale

Section 214(e)(1)(A) states that a carrier designated as an ETC shall offer services supported by Federal universal service support programs "either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services." TracFone is a reseller of the following carriers' services in Virginia: Alltel; Cingular Wireless; U.S. Cellular; Verizon Wireless; and Virginia Cellular. On June 8, 2004, TracFone has filed with the Commission a Petition for Forbearance requesting that the Commission forbear from applying Section 214(e)(1)(A) to TracFone.⁴ As detailed in the Petition for Forbearance, in the case of TracFone,

³ <u>See In re: Application of Virginia Cellular, LLC</u>, Case No. PUC-2001-00263, p. 1 (2004) (affirming that the Commission does not assert "jurisdiction over CMRS carriers...and [they] should apply to the FCC for ETC designation").

⁴ By public notice dated June 24, 2004, the Commission has invited public comment on TracFone's forbearance petition. See <u>Public Notice</u> – <u>Parties Are Invited To Comment On</u>

enforcement of the requirement that an ETC provide services using at least some of its own facilities is not necessary to ensure that TracFone's charges and practices are just and reasonable and are not unjustly or unreasonably discriminatory; is not necessary to protect consumers; and is consistent with the public interest.⁵

C. TracFone Offers All Required Services and Functionalities

TracFone offers, or will offer upon designation as an ETC in the Designated Areas, all of the services and functionalities required by Section 54.101(a) of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)) including the following:

1. Voice grade access to the public switched telephone network.

Voice grade access to the public switched telephone network ("PSTN") means the ability to make and receive traditional voice phone calls between the approximately 500 Hertz and 4,000 Hertz for a bandwidth of approximately 3500 Hertz.⁶ The voice grade access provided by TracFone enables a user of telecommunications services to transmit voice communications, including signaling the network that the caller wishes to place a call, and to receive voice communications, including receiving a signal indicating there is an incoming call.

2. Local Usage.

As part of the voice grade access to the PSTN, an ETC must provide local calling. TracFone provides subscribers the ability to send and receive local phone calls wherever it provides service. Moreover, local usage is included in all of TracFone's calling plans. As a

TracFone Wireless' Petition for Designation As An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier In The State Of New York And Petition For Forbearance From Application Of Section 214, DA 04-1822, released June 24, 2004.

⁵ <u>See</u> 47 U.S.C. § 160.

⁶ <u>See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service</u>, First Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776 at 8810-11 (1997) ("<u>USF Order</u>").

designated ETC, TracFone will comply with any applicable minimum local usage requirements adopted by the Commission.

3. Dual tone multi-frequency ("DTMF") signaling or its functional equivalent.

DTMF signaling allows carriers to provide expeditious call set-up and call detail information and enables modem usage.⁷ The Commission permits carriers to provide signaling that is functionally equivalent to DTMF to satisfy the DTMF requirement. All telephone handsets sold by TracFone are DTMF-capable.

4. Single-party service or its functional equivalent.

Single-party service means that only one party will be served by a subscriber line or access loop in contrast to a multi-party line.⁸ TracFone provides customers with single-party access for the duration of every phone call. TracFone does not provide "multi-party" or "party line" services.

5. Access to 911 and E911 emergency service.

The Commission has declared that access to emergency services is essential. TracFone provides universal access to the 911 system for its customers. TracFone has implemented and will continue to implement enhanced 911 ("E911") services consistent with the Commission's Rules and Orders when such services are made available by the carriers from whom TracFone purchases services. In particular, TracFone will fully comply with the Commission's E911

⁷ USF Order at 8814.

⁸ USF Order at 8810.

⁹ <u>Id.</u> at 8815.

requirements applicable to wireless resellers.¹⁰ Pursuant to the Commission's <u>E911 Order</u>, resellers that use other carriers' facilities to provide wireless voice service to customers have an obligation to comply with the Commission's E911 rules "to the extent that the underlying facilities-based licensee has deployed the facilities necessary to deliver enhanced 911 information to the appropriate PSAP [public service answering point]."¹¹ TracFone will make available access to E-911 service in accordance with applicable Commission requirements.

6. Access to operator services.

TracFone offers all of its customers access to operator services, in accordance with the Commission's requirements.

7. Access to interexchange service ("IXC").

TracFone customers can use TracFone's services to complete toll calls. In fact, TracFone does not impose separate charges for interexchange calls. Long distance calling is included in TracFone's service with no additional charge.

8. Access to directory assistance.

All TracFone customers receive access to directory assistance service through the TracFone virtual network. Specifically, all TracFone customers, including those customers located in Virginia, have access to directory assistance services provided by TracFone's vendors.

9. Toll limitation for qualified low-income customers.

There is no need for TracFone to offer a toll limitation feature to qualifying low-income customers. Since TracFone's service is a prepaid service, no customers will be disconnected for failure to pay toll charges or, for that matter, any other charges. TracFone treats long distance

¹⁰ See Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility With Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 18 FCC Rcd 25340 (2003) ("E911 Order").

¹¹ Id. ¶ 91.

minutes as any other minutes and the customers are not charged separately for toll services. Inasmuch as all TracFone services are prepaid there is no danger that low income customers will incur large charges for heavy toll (or other) calling and no risk that they will be disconnected for nonpayment. Since customers pay for the service in advance – they can use only what they already have paid for. Thus, TracFone's prepaid services are especially beneficial to lower income users since the consumers' enjoy the ability to control or limit their charges for toll service (as well as local service) in a manner that customers of traditional post-paid (billed in arrears) services do not.

D. TracFone Will Advertise the Availability of Supported Services

TracFone will advertise the availability of the above-described services and the charges therefor using media of general distribution, in accordance with the requirements of Section 54.201(d)(2) of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(2)). TracFone currently advertises the availability of its services, and will do so for each supported service on a regular basis, in newspapers and magazines, or on radio and television, that constitute media of general distribution in Designated Areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, TracFone services are advertised through use of displays at the numerous retail outlets where TracFone service is sold.

E. TracFone Requests Designation Throughout Its Licensed Service Area in Virginia

TracFone is not a rural telephone company as defined in Section 153(37) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 153(37)). Accordingly, TracFone is required to describe the geographic area(s) within which it requests designation as an ETC. TracFone requests designation as an ETC for its entire service area in Virginia. TracFone, through its resale of wireless services provided by its underlying vendors in Virginia, provides service in every Zip

Code in the State of Virginia. Accordingly, TracFone seeks ETC status throughout the entire Commonwealth of Virginia.

1. Non-Rural Areas

For non-rural service areas, there are no restrictions on how a state commission defines the "service area" for purposes of designating a competitive ETC. TracFone's authorized service area covers the following non-rural telephone company service areas:

Central Telephone Company of Virginia NTELOS Telephone, Inc.
Roanoke & Botetourt Telephone Company Shenandoah Telephone Company Verizon South, Inc.
Verizon Virginia, Inc.
United Telephone – Southeast, Inc.

The Commission may designate TracFone as an ETC in areas that TracFone serves without redefining the service areas of the non-rural telephone companies set forth above.

2. Rural Areas

TracFone's authorized service area covers the following rural telephone company service areas in their entirety:

Amelia Telephone Corporation
Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative
Burke's Garden Telephone Exchange
Citizens Telephone Cooperative
Highland Telephone Cooperative
MGW Telephone Company, Inc.
New Castle Telephone Company
New Hope Telephone Company
North River Telephone Cooperative
Pembroke Telephone Cooperative
Peoples Mutual Telephone Company, Inc.
Scott County Telephone Cooperative
Virginia Telephone Company

The Commission may designate TracFone as an ETC in these rural telephone company service

areas upon a finding that such designation would serve the public interest. 12

III. Designation of TracFone as an ETC for the Designated Areas In the Commonwealth of Virginia Would Serve the Public Interest

As noted above, TracFone seeks certification as an ETC in areas served by rural telephone companies, as well as in areas served by non-rural telephone companies. Consequently, the Communications Act requires that the Commission determine that TracFone's designation as an ETC would serve the public interest.¹³

The Commission has determined that "[d]esignation of competitive ETCs promotes competition and benefits consumers in rural and high-cost areas by increasing customer choice, innovative services, and new technologies." This is particularly applicable in the rural areas served by TracFone within the Commonwealth of Virginia -- areas that in most cases are not presently served by competitive wireline carriers that could provide an alternative to the incumbent LECs. Designation of TracFone as an ETC will provide a valuable alternative to the existing telecommunications services available in these areas. Those public interest benefits include larger local calling areas, the convenience and security afforded by mobile telephony service, the opportunity for customers to control their costs by purchasing in advance only the volumes of service which they need and supplementing those quantities on an "as needed" basis, and, available E-911 service in accordance with the Commission's E-911 requirements. In addition, TracFone's inclusion of toll calling within its calling plans will enable consumers to avoid the risk of becoming burdened with large and unanticipated charges for toll calling.

¹² <u>See</u> 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c).

¹³ 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6).

¹⁴ See Western Wireless Corporation Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Wyoming, Memorandum Opinion and Order, CC Docket No. 96-45, 16 FCC Rcd 48, 55 (2000).

Furthermore, designation of TracFone as an ETC will provide an incentive to the incumbent LECs in the designated rural areas to improve their existing networks to remain competitive, resulting in improved services to consumers. Designation of TracFone as an ETC in each case will also benefit consumers because support to services provided by TracFone will help assure that quality services are available at "just, reasonable, and affordable rates" as envisioned in the Communications Act. ¹⁵

In its recent <u>Highland Cellular</u> decision, the Commission identified several factors to be considered in determining whether designation of an addition ETC in a rural area would serve the public interest. These factors require the Commission to weigh whether the benefits of an additional ETC in specific rural areas would outweigh potential harms. The factors to be considered include: 1) the benefits of increased competitive choice; 2) the impact of the designation on the universal service fund; 3) the unique advantages of the applicant company's service offerings; 4) commitments made regarding the quality of services to be provided; and 5) the ETC applicant's ability to satisfy its obligation to serve the designated areas within a reasonable time frame.¹⁶ As described in the following paragraphs, TracFone meets each of those criteria.

1. The Benefits of Competitive Choice

The benefits to consumers of being able to choose from among a variety of telecommunications service providers have been acknowledged by the Commission for more than three decades.¹⁷ However, the benefits of competitive choice are especially valuable in situations in which wireless providers like TracFone seek to provide service to rural

¹⁵ See 47 U.S.C. § 254(b)(1).

¹⁶ Highland Cellular at § 22.

¹⁷ See, e.g., Specialized Common Carrier Services, 29 FCC2d 870 (1971).

communities. As the Commission recognized in <u>Highland Cellular</u>, some residences located in rural communities do not have access to the public switched network through the incumbent local exchange carrier. Moreover, the availability of a wireless competitive alternative benefits those rural consumers who often must drive significant distances to work, to schools, to stores, and to other community locations.¹⁸ TracFone's prepaid wireless service alternative will provide consumers with convenient and affordable service, both from their residences and when they are away from their homes.

2. Impact on the Universal Service Fund

Whatever impact classification of TracFone as an ETC will have on the universal service fund will be negligible. As noted by the Commission in <u>Highland Cellular</u>, the total size of the fund as of fourth quarter 2003 was \$857,903.276. That same quarter competitive ETCs received approximately \$32 million or 3.7% of the available high cost support. TracFone does not anticipate that the amount of universal service funding which it might receive would be more than a *de minimis* portion of the fund size.

3. Unique Advantages of TracFone's Service Offerings

As described elsewhere in this petition, TracFone's entire business model is predicated on providing easy to use, pay-as-you-go, affordable wireless telecommunications service to consumers to whom wireless service is otherwise unavailable or impracticable. TracFone offers consumers an opportunity to acquire wireless service using state-of-the-art handsets and such features as caller ID, voice mail, call forwarding, and long distance calling without toll charges. Because TracFone's service requires no term contracts, no minimum service periods or volume commitments, no credit checks, the service is available to everyone – irrespective of age;

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¹⁸ Highland Cellular at § 23.

irrespective of residency; irrespective of creditworthiness. Moreover, TracFone's prepaid service is unique in that usage information and remaining balance information is stored in the handsets and is thus available to consumers on a "real-time" basis. None of the incumbent providers nor those other non-incumbent ETCs serving the areas covered by TracFone in Virginia offer service to consumers under comparable conditions.

4. Service Quality Commitments Made

As a reseller of other carriers' wireless services, TracFone's service is of the same quality and reliability as that of its underlying vendors. TracFone cannot assure the Commission that it will never experience service disruptions. Occasional dropped calls and inconsistent coverage depending on atmospheric conditions are a fact of life in the wireless industry. TracFone believes that its service is as reliable as that of any other provider serving the Virginia market. To demonstrate its commitment to high service quality, TracFone will comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for Wireless Service. In addition, it is willing to provide report to the Commission information regarding the number of consumer complaints per 1,000 handsets on an annual basis (the commitment made by Highland Cellular).

5. TracFone Will be Able to Serve the Designated Areas Within a Reasonable Time

TracFone provides service in Virginia by reselling service which it obtains from five underlying facilities-based providers. Each of those providers' networks are operational and are largely built out. Thus, TracFone will be able to provide service to all locations served by any of those five underlying carriers immediately upon grant of this application.

Designation of TracFone as an ETC will also serve the public interest because TracFone will provide all of the supported services required by the Commission, will participate in the

Lifeline and Link-Up programs as required by the Commission's Rules, and will otherwise comply with all FCC Rules governing universal service programs, which are designed to ensure that the public interest standards of the Communications Act are achieved. Allowing TracFone access to universal service support will enable TracFone to continue to enhance and expand its service to better serve consumers in underserved, high-cost areas of Virginia. As a national leader in prepaid wireless services, TracFone has done much to advance the availability of wireless service for those portions of the population for whom wireless service is otherwise unavailable or, if available, is too costly and requires usage and volume commitments which are beyond the means of many consumers.

Finally, designation of TracFone as an ETC will serve the public interest by further promoting the extensive role TracFone plays in the provision of communications services to lower income and lower volume users, and transient users, as well as other consumers who either choose not to enter into long-term service commitments or who are unable to meet the credit requirements necessary to obtain service from other wireline or wireless carriers. TracFone's "pay-as-you-go" wireless plans enable consumers to enjoy the convenience and security of wireless telecommunication without being subject to extensive credit reviews and long-term service commitments which historically have limited the availability of wireless service to many Americans, including many Virginians. Accordingly, designation of TracFone as an ETC will serve the public interest.

IV. Anti-Drug Abuse Certification

No party to this Petition is subject to denial of federal benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1998, 21 U.S.C. Section 862.¹⁹

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¹⁹ See Declaration of F.J. Pollak, attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

V. High-Cost, Interstate Access, and Interstate Common Line Support Certification

Under Sections 54.313, 54.314 and 54.904 of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.314 & 54.904), as well as 47 C.F.R. § 54.809, carriers wishing to obtain universal service support must either be certified by the appropriate state commission or, where the state commission does not exercise jurisdiction, must self-certify with the Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") as to their compliance with Section 254(e) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 254(e)). As explained above, the VSCC does not exercise jurisdiction over CMRS carriers such as TracFone. Therefore, TracFone has submitted its high-cost interstate access and interstate common line support certification letter with the Commission and with USAC. A copy of this certification is attached hereto as Exhibit 3. TracFone respectfully requests that the Commission issue a finding that TracFone has met the high-cost, interstate access and interstate common lines support certification requirement and that TracFone is, therefore, entitled to begin receiving such support where available, as of the date it receives a grant of ETC status in order that funding not be delayed.²⁰

²⁰ See Guam and Cellular Paging, Inc. Petition for Waiver of FCC Rule Section 54.314, Order, 18 FCC Rcd 7138 (2003).

VI. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, TracFone contends that the requirements for eligibility for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier have been met. Therefore, TracFone requests that the Commission promptly grant this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell F. Brecher Debra McGuire Mercer

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Counsel for TracFone Wireless, Inc.

July 21, 2004

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Exhibit 1

DECLARATION OF TRACFONE WIRELESS, INC.

- F.J. Pollak, after first being sworn on oath, and pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.16, states as follows:
- 1. I am President and Chief Executive Officer of TracFone Wireless, Inc. My business address is 8930 N.W. 25th Street, Miami, Florida 33122-1902
- 2. In my capacity as President and Chief Executive Officer of TracFone Wireless, Inc., I am an authorized representative of the Company. I have read TracFone's Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia (Petition) and confirm the information contained therein to be true and correct to the best of my present knowledge.
- 3. To the best of my knowledge, no party to the Petition, nor any of their officers, directors, or persons holding 5% or more of the outstanding stock or shares (voting and/or non-voting) as specified in Section 1.2002(b) of the Commission's rules, are subject to denial of federal benefits, including Commission benefits, pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 862.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on July 19, 2004.

President and Chief Executive Officer

Subscribed and sworn to before me This 19 day of July 2004.

Maria C. Hurrero Notary Public MARIA C. HENGRO
Commission # DD0153303
Expires 9/25/2008
Bonded through
(800-432-4254) Florida Notary Assn., Inc.

Exhibit 2

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION COMMENT CONTROL AT RICHMOND, APRIL 9, 2004

IN RE:

664 APR -9 A 11: 46

APPLICATION OF VIRGINIA CELLULAR LLC

CASE NO. PUC-2001-00263

For designation as an eligible telecommunications provider under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) (2)

ORDER INVITING COMMENTS AND/OR REQUESTS FOR HEARING

On December 21, 2001, Virginia Cellular LLC ("Virginia Cellular") filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC"). This was the first application by a Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") carrier for ETC designation. Pursuant to the Order Requesting Comments, Objections, or Requests for Hearing, issued by the Commission on January 24, 2002, the Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association and NTELOS Telephone Inc. ("NTELOS") filed their respective comments and requests for hearing on February 20, 2002. Virginia Cellular filed Reply Comments on March 6, 2002. Our Order of April 9, 2002, found that § 214(e)(6) of the Act is applicable to Virginia Cellular's application because this Commission has not asserted jurisdiction over CMRS carriers and that Virginia Cellular should apply to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for ETC designation.

Virginia Cellular filed its Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications

Carrier in the State of Virginia with the FCC on April 26, 2002. On January 22, 2004, the FCC released its order designating Virginia Cellular as an ETC in specific portions of its licensed

¹ Virginia Cellular is a CMRS carrier as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(27) and is authorized as the "A-band" cellular carrier for the Virginia 6 Rural Service Area, serving the counties of Rockingham, Augusta, Nelson, and Highland and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

service area in the Commonwealth of Virginia subject to certain conditions ("FCC's January 22, 2004, Order").²

The FCC's January 22, 2004, Order further stated that Virginia Cellular's request to redefine the service areas of Shenandoah Telephone Company ("Shentel") and MGW Telephone Company ("MGW") in Virginia pursuant to § 214(3)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act") was granted subject to the agreement of this Commission. On March 2, 2004, the FCC filed its January 22, 2004, Order as a petition in this case.³

Section 214(e)(5) of the Act states:

SERVICE AREA DEFINED. - The term "service area" means a geographic area established by a State commission (or the Commission under paragraph (6)) for the purpose of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms. In the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, "service area" means such company's "study area" unless and until the Commission and the States, after taking into account recommendations of a Federal-State Joint Board instituted under section 410(c), establish a different definition of service area for such company.

In this instance, the FCC has determined that the service areas of Shentel and MGW, which are both rural telephone companies under the Act, should be redefined as requested by Virginia Cellular.⁴ The FCC further recognizes that the "Virginia Commission's first-hand knowledge of the rural areas in question uniquely qualifies it to determine the redefinition proposal and examine whether it should be approved."⁵

² CC Docket No. 96-45, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Virginia Cellular LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

³ See paragraph 45 of the FCC's January 22, 2004, Order. The FCC, in accordance with § 54.207(d) of its rules, requests that the Virginia Commission treat this Order as a petition to redefine a service area under § 54.207(d)(1) of the FCC's rules. A copy of the petition can be obtained from the Commission's website at: http://www.state.va.us/scc/caseinfo.htm.

⁴ The FCC denied Virginia Cellular's request to redefine the study area of NTELOS. See paragraph 50 of the FCC's January 22, 2004, Order.

⁵ The FCC's January 24, 2004, Order at paragraph 2. (citations omitted)

The Commission finds that interested parties should be afforded the opportunity to comment and/or request a hearing regarding the FCC's petition to redefine the service areas of Shentel and MGW. We note that the FCC believes that its proposed redefinition of these service areas should not harm either Shentel or MGW.⁶ However, we request any interested party to specifically address in its comments whether our agreeing to the FCC's proposal to redefine the service areas of Shentel and MGW would harm these companies.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of all the pleadings of record and the applicable law, the Commission is of the opinion that interested parties should be allowed to comment or request a hearing regarding the FCC's proposed redefinition of Shentel's and MGW's service areas.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) Any interested party desiring to comment regarding the redefinition of Shentel's and MGW's service areas may do so by directing such comments in writing on or before May 7, 2004, to Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested parties desiring to submit comments electronically may do so by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: http://www.state.va.us/scc/caseinfo.htm.
- (2) On or before May 7, 2004, any interested party wishing to request a hearing regarding the redefinition of Shentel's and MGW's service areas shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of its request for hearing in writing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Written requests for hearing shall refer to Case No. PUC-2001-00263 and shall include: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the filing party; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in the matter.

⁶ See paragraphs 43 and 44 of the FCC's January 22, 2004, Order.

- (3) On or before June 1, 2004, interested parties may file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of any responses to the comments and requests for hearing filed with the Commission. A copy of the response shall be delivered to any person who filed comments or requests for hearing.
 - (4) This matter is continued generally.

AN ATTESTED COPY hereof shall be sent by the Clerk of the Commission to: each local exchange telephone company licensed to do business in Virginia, as shown on Attachment A hereto; David A. LaFuria, Esquire, Lukas, Nace, Gutierrez & Sachs, Chartered, 1111 19th Street, N.W., Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20036; Thomas Buckley, Attorney-Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554; Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association, c/o Richard D. Gary, Esquire, Hunton & Williams LLP, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-4074; L. Ronald Smith, President and General Manager, Shenandoah Telephone Company, P.O. Box 105, Williamsville, Virginia 24487; Lori Warren, Director of Regulatory Affairs, MGW Telephone Company, P.O. Box 459, Edinburg, Virginia 22824-0459; C. Meade Browder, Jr., Senior Assistant Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of Attorney General, 900 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219; and the Commission's Office of General Counsel and Divisions of Communications, Public Utility Accounting, and Economics and Finance.

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XO VIRGINIA, LLC MR. G. MARTIN PFISTER PROPERTY & REGULATORY TAX MGR 11111 SUNSET HILLS ROAD

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

Exhibit 3



inc. 8390 NW 25th Street | Miami, FL 33122

June 7, 2004

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Irene M. Flannery Vice President - Hugh Cost and Low Income Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, NW Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036

RECEIVED

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re:

TracFone Wireless, Inc.

Certification for High Cost Loop Support, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

This certification is submitted on behalf of TracFone Wireless, Inc. ("TracFone") in accordance with Federal Communications Rules 54.313 and 54.314 (47 C.F.R. && 54.313. 54.314). On behalf of TracFone, I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all high-cost support provided to TracFone will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. § 254(e)).

Sincerely,

TracFone Wireless, Inc.

F.J. Pollak

President and Chief Executive Officer

SUBSCRIBED, SWORN TO, AND ACKNOWLEDGED before me this 7 day of June, 2004.

My Commission Expires:

9-25-06

Maria C.